



(U) ConSIDer This: Military Rank Abbreviations

FROM: SIGINT Communications

Run Date: 01/20/2004

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(U) Civilians: do you know how to abbreviate U.S. military ranks? Each military service uses its own abbreviation scheme. For example, the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps all use the rank of lieutenant colonel, but they abbreviate this rank as LTC, Lt Col (with a blank space), and LtCol (without a space), respectively.

(U) As you can see in the tables below, the Army and Navy use upper case in its abbreviations, while the Air Force and Marine Corps generally use a combination of upper and lower case. Note also that certain ranks are used by only one military branch; this is especially true in the case of the Navy:

PAY GRADE	ARMY	AIR FORCE	NAVY	MARINE CORPS
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Enlisted:

E-1	PV1	AB	SR	Pvt
E-2	PV2	Amn	SA	PFC
E-3	PFC	A1C	SN	LCpl
E-4	CPL/SPC	SrA	PO3	Cpl
E-5	SGT	SSgt	PO2	Sgt
E-6	SSG	TSgt	PO1	SSgt
E-7	SFC	MSgt	CPO	GySgt
E-8	MSG/1SG	SMSgt	SCPO	MSgt/1stSgt
E-9	CSM/SGM	CMSgt	MCPO	SgtMaj/MGySgt

Warrant Officers:

W-1	WO1	none	(not used)	WO1
W-2	CW2	none	CWO2	CWO2
W-3	CW3	none	CWO3	CWO3
W-4	CW4	none	CWO4	CWO4
W-5	CW5	none	CWO5	CWO5

Officers:

O-1	2LT	2nd Lt	ENS	2ndLt
O-2	1LT	1st Lt	LTJG	1stLt
O-3	CPT	Capt	LT	Capt
O-4	MAJ	Maj	LCDR	Maj
O-5	LTC	Lt Col	CDR	LtCol



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O-6	COL	Col	CAPT	Col
O-7	BG	Brig Gen	RADM(L)	BGen
O-8	MG	Maj Gen	RADM(U)	MajGen
O-9	LTG	Lt Gen	VADM	LtGen
O-10	GEN	Gen	ADM	Gen

(U) The Coast Guard ranks are the same as those of the Navy.

(U) If you'd like to see these listed in a different format (or to see what the abbreviations break out to!), see [this web page](#). The insignia associated with each rank are on this [web page](#).

(U) Note: The rank of CWO5 in the Navy is new. Promotions to this rank are to take effect for the first time during the FY04 selection board cycle.

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